

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:

5 a client reading an advertisement from a space, wherein the space comprises a network-addressable storage location, wherein the advertisement comprises a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) and a schema, wherein the URI specifies a network address at which a service may be accessed, and wherein the schema specifies one or more messages usable to invoke one or more functions of the service; and

10 the client sending a first message to the service at the URI, wherein the first message is specified in the schema.

15 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the service sending a second message to the client in response to the client sending the first message to the service, wherein the second message is specified in the schema.

20 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

invoking one or more functions of the service in response to the client sending the first message to the service.

25 4. The method of claim 1,

wherein the schema is expressed in a data representation language.

30 5. The method of claim 1,

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wherein the first message is expressed in a data representation language.

6. The method of claim 5,

5 wherein the data representation language comprises eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

7. The method of claim 1,

10 wherein the URI comprises an Internet address.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the service publishing the advertisement in the space.

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9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the client using a lookup service to find the advertisement in the space.

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10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the client using the URI and the schema in the advertisement to construct a gate for access to the service.

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11. A system comprising:

a client;

a service which is communicatively coupled to the client; and

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a space which is communicatively coupled to the client, wherein the space comprises a network-addressable storage location, wherein the space stores an advertisement for the service, wherein the advertisement comprises a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) and a schema, wherein the URI specifies a network address at which the service may be accessed, and wherein the schema specifies one or more messages usable to invoke one or more functions of the service;

wherein the client is operable to:

read the advertisement from a space; and

send a first message to the service at the URI, wherein the first message is specified in the schema.

12. The system of claim 11,

wherein the service is operable to send a second message to the client in response to the first message, wherein the second message is specified in the schema.

13. The system of claim 11,

wherein one or more functions of the service are invoked in response to the first message.

14. The system of claim 11,

wherein the schema is expressed in a data representation language.

15. The system of claim 11,

wherein the first message is expressed in a data representation language.

16. The system of claim 15,

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wherein the data representation language comprises eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

17. The system of claim 11,

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wherein the URI comprises an Internet address.

18. The system of claim 11,

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wherein the service is operable to publish the advertisement in the space.

19. The system of claim 11,

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wherein the client is operable to use a lookup service to find the advertisement in the space.

20. The system of claim 11,

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wherein the client is operable to use the URI and the schema in the advertisement to construct a gate for access to the service.

21. A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement:

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a client reading an advertisement from a space, wherein the space comprises a network-addressable storage location, wherein the advertisement

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comprises a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) and a schema, wherein the URI specifies a network address at which a service may be accessed, and wherein the schema specifies one or more messages usable to invoke one or more functions of the service; and

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the client sending a first message to the service at the URI, wherein the first message is specified in the schema.

22. The carrier medium of claim 21, wherein the program instructions are further
10 computer-executable to implement:

the service sending a second message to the client in response to the client
sending the first message to the service, wherein the second message is
specified in the schema.

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23. The carrier medium of claim 21, wherein the program instructions are further
computer-executable to implement:

invoking one or more functions of the service in response to the client sending the
20 first message to the service.

24. The carrier medium of claim 21,

wherein the schema is expressed in a data representation language.

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25. The carrier medium of claim 21,

wherein the first message is expressed in a data representation language.

30 26. The carrier medium of claim 25,

wherein the data representation language comprises eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

27. The carrier medium of claim 21,

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wherein the URI comprises an Internet address.

28. The carrier medium of claim 21, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

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the service publishing the advertisement in the space.

29. The carrier medium of claim 21, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

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the client using a lookup service to find the advertisement in the space.

30. The carrier medium of claim 21, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

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the client using the URI and the schema in the advertisement to construct a gate for access to the service.

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